Sugar export scandal

4080. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAYYA :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Excise Department has ordered a high-level probe into the multi-crore sugar export scandal;

(b) if so, whether investigations in all sugar units have been ordered for five years with priority being given from January, 2000 onwards;

(c) whether any reports in this regard have been received from the inquiry committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what action has been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The number of cases in which Sugar was cleared for export without payment of central excise duty but diverted into domestic market are as follows :

No. of Sugar Mills	Duty amount involved (in Rs. Lakhs)	Duty amount recovered (in Rs. Lakhs)
21	678.92	307.52

(e) Action has been initiated in all the cases to recover the excise duty evaded and to penalise those concerned.

NRI remittances from Gulf region

4081. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been reported that NRI remittances from the Gulf region, which recorded a sharp jump in the first two months of 2003 had a greater impact during the war;